GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:714
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2002
ASSAULT ON INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION OFFICIALS IN PAKISTAN
A. VENKATESH NAIK;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the frequent misbehaviour and assault by Pakistani Police and High Commission officials on Indian High Commission officials in Islamabad and officials of commercial offices in Pakistan:

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, till date; and

(c) the steps taken to deal with the situation and to ensure safety of Indian High Commission officials in Pakistan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of incidents of harassment of personnel of Indian High Commission in Islamabad during the last three years are as follows:

1999 : 18
2000 : 22
2001 : 16

In 2002, till date, 9 cases of harassment/assault have been reported.

(c) Under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961 and the bilateral `Code of Conduct for Treatment of Diplomatic/Consular Personnel in India and Pakistan` signed by the two countries in 1992, the responsibility for the safety and security of personnel of High Commission rests with the host Government. Government of India protests strongly to Government of Pakistan against all cases of harassment of officials of Indian High Commission in Islamabad and remind them of their obligations under the Vienna Convention and bilateral Code of Conduct. Government remains committed to taking all necessary measures for the safety and security of the personnel in Indian missions abroad.